Between Earth and Heaven-Genesis, Chapter XXVII.

Rev. C. R. Blackall, D. D., in St. Louis Republic.

can usually foretell what the man will be from characteristics distinctly Can she span the period until his remanifested in his childhood or early turn? years. But this leaves out of the account the molding influence of maturer years, the often inevitable results of environment and the development of principle whose root and even bud might pass unnoticed and disagreeable traits that in early life were prominent and perhaps dominating. We have a fine ill stration of this in the patriarch Jacob.

SPOILED FROM POYHOOD.

There was evidently the making of a man in the boy Jacob, yet instead of rightly directing Lis growth and energies, his handsome, but unwise mother, very nearly ruined him, which was not a materially different result from what may sometimes be received tween them. in modern families.

Jacob was Rebekah's favorite. The for home life, doubtless voted his mother a weakling, because his sturdy nature found satisfaction in pursuits foreign to her tastes and habits. Quite as evidently she never was drawn to confide in him. Esau was a lover of out-door sports, in which he excelled. From the gentler home associations he had steadily leaned away since childhood. Neither did he regard the preferences of father or mother in his personal companionships, marrying twice distinctly contrary to the wishes of his parents, well knowing that his course would bring pain to both. But Esau had discovered the soft side of Isaac and catered to it, being rewarded in turn by his father. And it is not in evidence that Isaac felt any especial responsithem less than he was influenced by

Jacob, on the contrary, hovered about the home. No longer a young man, he was yet obedient to every whim and caprice of Rebekah. He was "the business man" of the family, and filled doubtless with a sense of his "divine right" to succeed to the prompted by his mother. Clearly, he had been in large degree spoiled, and in order to the right development of his manhood, it was essential that he should be cut loose completely from his early environments.

A FAMILY PARTING.

Notice the managing of Rebekah. She has been told of the threats of Esau. "Now, therefore, obey my voice," she says to Jacob, as she advises him to go to her brother, Laban, and "tarry with him a few days" until Esau shall forget his ire and perhaps his murderous purpose. "Then I will send and fetch thee from thence; why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?" It is motherlove, of course, but selfish through-

Notice again Rebekah's shrewdness. She secks Isaac with a plaint that is sure to win him to her views. Esauis not mentioned. "I am weary of life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?" It is wholly "I" and "my" and "me." She does not seem to rise above purely personal considerations. Her plea prevails, and Isaac is fully won to her purpose. Jacob is sent away, filled with blessings and reiterated promises with regard to his future, but most solemnly charged that he must not marry a Canaanite, but seek alliance with his mother's kindred.

Lift the tent-flap, if you will, and look into the women's apartment. A woman, fair in her maturity, is lying upon a divan, moaning and weeping. She has dismissed her maids, for she would be alone in her room. The shadow of coming events casts its pall managed. She has sent him away on a long and wearisome journey; and, alone, though she regards him as "the heir of promise." Perchance she never again shall see his beloved face or hear his voice: Danger will beset him on every hand. Her heart prompts her to call him back—but forget his obligation when prosperity then he may be the victim of Esau's is abundant. And now the remainder wrath, and if the elder son became a goes forward with confidence, for God murderer, both will be lost to her. It being with him, why should be be is too late; already he is beyond re- afraid?

It is a trite saying that the boy is | call, though her heart is breaking. father to the man, which is merely in- Amid new associations his thoughts tended to indicate the fact that one may yet turn to Beersheba. She has planned for an absence of "a few days."

HOUSE OF GOD.

Jacob gocs out from Beersheba alone. No sumptuous train of camels and attendants in his career has come. A long journey is before him, the outcome of which he cannot tell. He is a wanderer now, and largely because of his own misdeeds. He begins to see himself as never before. In his heart is awakened desires that have long been dormant. The spirit of Abraham unconsciously to himself stirs within him, and his fathers' God is more a reality than hitherto, now that Rebekah's influence is no longer dominant and fear of Esau is lessened by the steadily widening distance be-

Forty or more miles have been coved as he reaches the vicinity of Luz reason is not far to seek. She had at close of day, and amid the wildness only two sons. Esau having no liking of a bare and rugged place he lies down to rest with a smooth stone for a pillow, as many another has since done. The stars shine on him with what seems unwonted brilliancy. He sleeps. He dreams. His surroundings are favorable to the structure of his dream. It is very real to him, as dreams with a distinct meaning are apt to be. From earth to Heaven massive flight of steps, or ladder, arises. Angelie forms ascend and de scend in beautiful and helpful ministries, their presence irradiating the whole valley. Beside him, in dread majesty, is Jehovah himself. Well may he may be afraid, for his lipsare they not stained with deepest falsehood? His eyes-have they not constantly sought the possessions of his brother? His hands, have bility for the direction and con- they not deceived his aged father? trol of either of his sons, influencing His heart-is it not filled with duplicity.

Jehovah sees the end from the beginning. The process may be slow, and the consequences of wrongdoing may not be wholly averted, but in due time the Jacob of to-day will be regenerated. "I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac." Assurance first to the patriarchate; first, because of his su- tired traveler. Then direct promise, perior qualifications by nature, and, which runs like that made to his prosecondly, because he had bought that genitors. Then personal protection: right of his reckless brother, when "I am with thee and will keep thee the latter was apparently in great whithersoever thou goest and will semblance to these rodents, and when strait. It is not unfair to suppose bring thee again into this land; for that every step in his course was I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee

The glory is gone. The stars have faded. Jacob awakes. The night is past. The stony valley incloses him. Yet the dream is to him a reality. Never can he forget that voice. He may be swayed and influenced often to seek perverse paths, but surely, steadily it will mold his life. He repeats the words gladly and impresses them firmly on his mind: "I am with thee and will keep thee." He is aroused to the beginning of a nobler life. No fears shall hunt him, no trouble shall depress him in the face of such blessed promises. Well may he say, with deep religious emotion such as never found harbor in Esau's breast: "Surely, Jehovah is in habits. this place and I knew it not. * * * This is in none other than the house of God and this is the gate of heaven." To him the place is Bethel in-

THE SOLEMN VOW.

It seems much like bargaining, as Jacob phrases it, according to the habit of his mind; he has not yet learned better through the sweet ex- is by throwing it into water. A cold perience of faith. Heaven is not so very far away, he thinks, and augel ministries are never wanting. Jehovah's voice is clear and unmistakable if one is only in a listening attitude. Nevertheless, he uses an "if" and a "then" as though framing a contract that will be binding toward him as well as by him. And he seems disposed to insect some particulars that were not previously mentioned. It is not strange, for he is only beginning to see and to understand the full import of Jehovah's abounding promises. His early training is asserting itself. "If God will be over her. No matter what his age or | with me; and (if he) will keep me is manliness, Jacob is ever "her boy, her this way that I go; and (if he) will darling" to be petted and coddled and give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; and (if) Je hovah will be my God; then * * * o all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Jacob does not realize the full force of his words or regard his utterances of the journey is before him. He

its young in a pouch or marsupium, like a kangaroo. It is the only animal which can feign death perfectly in order to escape its enemies, and the expression "playing 'possum" is a well-known phrase. It is also remarkable in that it hangs by its tail like a monkey. Its hands resemble those of a human being. It is most liberally provided with teeth, and has

United States.

The American opossum, represent-

ing the genus Didelphys, is one of the

most curious animals in the United

those of a rat, and hisses like a snake. Mr. Edward Decker, au agriculturalst residing near Columbus, Ohio, caught a female opossum last spring, and discovered that his captive had in her pouch an interesting family of twelve little ones. His dog had been investigating a rail-pile, and suddenly raised a tremendous outery. Mr. Decker found the dog worrying the old opossum and delivered her from the jaws of death, but not until after she had been severely bitten. He dressed her wounds, took good care of her and succeeded in raising to maturity every one of the twelve young ones.

When first discovered, the baby opossums were about two inches long, hairless and sightless.

The dozen grew slowly at first, their progress being retarded by the injured condition of the mother. It was several weeks before the boldest of them, having had his eyes unscaled, timidly poked his white snout through the opening of the pouch and reconnoitered. By and by he ventured to crawl outside and hung by the long fur of the mother. Soon another and another followed the leader on a tour of inspection. After that the twelve came out daily, but were exceedingly timid, scuttling back into the pouch at the slightest noise or the approach of any person.

One of the twelve managed to escape from the old cornerib where they were confined and was gone for ten days. Upon his return he was immediately set upon by his brothers and sisters as a renegade, and had his large, fan-like ears bitten off close to his head.

The method of feeding the mother consisted at first of throwing in a pigeon, and later a fowl from the barnyard. The young opossums used to have fierce fights over their nocturnal meals, and in one of these wrangles one of their number lost her ear, after the style of punishment visited on the renegade. This seemed to be the vulnerable point of attack in a 'possum fight.

When they had attained the size of rats the young bore a remarkable reall climbed upon their mother, clinging to her hair, neck and legs, she staggered under the load. No other mother among the animals of North America bears such a burden, and her patience and tranquillity under her manifold cares were admirable. The photographer who succeeded in taking the half dozen fine views of mother and family has given an insight into the domestic arrangements of the opossum, although far from uncommon in the United States, seems to be little understood. Owing to the nocturnal habits, comparatively few people have ever seen a female with her young.

The writer obtained from Mr. Decker four of the young opossums when they were about one-fourth grown, and he made a close study of their

The opossum is known to naturalists as being one of the most innocent and harmless of animals. In its wild state, when attacked by a man or dog, it immediately falls over as if dead, and no amount of beating or physical torture can make it cease "playing 'possum." There is only one way in which the animal can be made to resume the semblance of life, and that bath will instantly cause it to cease feigning death and swim for life.

In its habits this queer animal is a veritable sloth. The two things it likes best to do are to eat and sleep. It cats with great gusto and a carnivorous and omnivorous appetite. So eager were they to snap up a big beetle that one's fingers were in danger of being masticated along with the

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THE OPOSSUM. One of the Most Carious Animals in the

tied with a string and dropped under | ance-pole. their noses precipitated a vicious fight for possession. The contestants for the epicurean morsel growled and snarled like so many dogs, chewed They possess none of the viciousness each others' noses and ears in reckless disregard of sensitive feelings and proprietary rights. The chaps whose

States. It is the only one carrying noses were bitten hissed loudly, after the aspirate fashion of their kind. The four animals constituted two pairs. Three were gray, while one erican. female was very dark. She was designated as "Blackie" and thrived amazingly, soon becoming larger than any two of the others. She was gena snout like that of a hog, eyes like

tle but extremely sensitive and retiring. One day a collar and chain was put on her and she was taken for an outing in the fields. Blackie became possessed of a frantic desire to part company with her self-constituted guardian, and became furious at the restraint put upon her movements. At first she tried to get away by stealth, sneaking away slowly and softly through the grass, and, when at some distance, would begin to amble at a lively rate. Her disgust at being pulled up with a sudden jerk was pronounced, and she growled like a bear at bay, tearing at the chain with feet and jaws and ruffling her long hair till it stood like quills upon the fretful porcupine. She never got over the memory of that day, and always afterward slunk into a corner and crouched low to escape the hands

reached forth to touch her. She

never manifested any resentment,

however, her only desire being tolles-

cape notice.

The young animals spent much of their time in combing their long hair and washing their faces and hands. For the latter purpose nature has suppiled them plentifully with salivary glands, and in taking a bath Blackie and her companions used copious quantities of saliva. Their pedimanous extremities and their "fifth hand," the tail, were thus kept scrupulously neat, the hands being always clean and rosy. The hair-combing process is both interesting and amusing. Blackie performed this operation priucipally with her rear foot-hands. With the right one she would begin to comb just back of the ear, and continue until a point above the hips was reached. The work was finished with the front feet. The five fingers of the front extremity are supplied with narrow nails, as are also the four fingers of the hands in the rear, but the thumbs of the latter have no nails. In walking a limb the thumb invariably goes on one side while the four fingers go on the other. The tail, besides being handy in climbing and in suspension, is used while walking a

shelled tidbit. A half-grown frog limb, similarly to a rope walker's bal-

Young opossums may be carried around on the end of a walking-stick and make gentle and interesting pets. of that most diminutive of the bear species, the raccoon, but on the other hand seem to lack its intelligence. Naturalists characterize them as the most innocent and harmless of animals .- A. C. Carson in Scientific Am-

- An obscure man in New York owns a very wonderful dog whose name is "Boozer." His first work was to catch a burglar about three months ago. Then he rushed in two weeks ago and dragged Mrs. Augustus Lynd from beneath a street car and saved her life. Last Saturday a runaway team, with only harness and tongue. was stopped by him, when several policeman had failed. Boozer is a bull terrier, and weighs about 30 pounds.

- The man who wants to prove everything he says advertises the fact that his word isn't to be credited.

- The average girl lays aside her bashfulness with her short dresses.

Sufferers from this horrible malad nearly always inherit it - not necessari from the parents, but may be from some remote ancestor, for Cancer often run through several generations. This deadly poison may lay dormant in the blood for years, or until you reach middle life, then the first little sore or ulcer makes its appearance—or a swollen gland in the breast, or some other part of the body,

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Cancer begins often in a small way, as the

Cancer begins often in a small way, as the following letter from Mrs. Shirer shows:
A small pimple came on my jaw about an inchelow the ear on the left side of my face. It gaw me no pain or inconvengince, and I should have forgotten about it had it not begun to inflame and itch; it would bleed a little, then scab over, but would not heal. This continued for some time, when my jaw began to swell, becoming very painful. The Cancer began to cat and spread, until it was as large as a half dollar, when I heard of S. S. S. and determined to give it a fair trial, and it was remarkable what a wonderful effect it had from the very beginning; the sore began to heal and after taking a few hottles disconnected.

what a wonderful effect it had from the very beginning; the sore began heal and after taking a few bottles disappear entirely. This was two years ago; there are sti no signs of the Cancer, and my general heatt continues good.—Mrs. R. Shirker, La Plata, Mo is the greatest of all blood purifiers, and the

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Nov 13, 1901 T. HAYNIE, Adm'r.

Notice of Final Settlement. THE undersigned, Executors of the

Estate of J. C. Haynie, deceased, here-by give notice that they will on the 16th by give notice that they will on the 16th day of December, 1901, apply to the Judge of Probate of Anderson County, a. U, for a Final Settlement of said Estate, and a discharge from their office as Executors.

JOHN T. HAYNIE,

R. T. HAYNIE,

Nov 13, 1901—5

Executor.

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